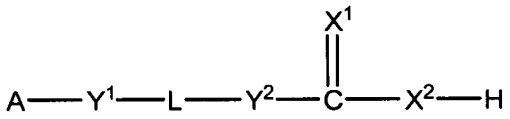
CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. **(Currently Amended)** A compound of formula (I):



(I)

wherein

A is a cyclic moiety selected from the group consisting of C_{3-14} cycloalkyl, 3-14 membered heterocycloalkyl, C_{4-14} cycloalkenyl, 3-14 membered heterocycloalkenyl, aryl, heteroaryl; the cyclic moiety being optionally substituted with 1-3 substituents, each of which is independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkoxy, hydroxyl, hydroxylalkyl, halo, haloalkyl, amino, alkylcarbonyloxy, alkyloxycarbonyl, alkylcarbonyl, alkylsulfonylamino, aminosulfonyl, and alkylsulfonyl;

each of X^1 and X^2, independently, is O or S;

each of Y^1 and Y^2, independently, is $-CH_2-$, -O-, -S-, $-N(R^a)-$, $-N(R^a)-C(O)-O-$, $-O-C(O)-N(R^a)-$, $-N(R^a)-C(O)N(R^b)-$, -O-C(O)-O-, or a bond; each of R^a and R^b, independently being hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkoxy, hydroxylalkyl, hydroxyl, or haloalkyl;

L is a straight C_{3-12} hydrocarbon chain optionally containing at least one double bond, at least one triple bond, or at least one double bond and one triple bond; said hydrocarbon chain being optionally substituted with C_{2-4} alkenyl, C_{2-4} alkynyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy, hydroxyl, halo, amino, nitro, cyano, C_{3-5} cycloalkyl, 3-5 membered heterocycloalkyl, monocyclic aryl, 5-6 membered

heteroaryl, C_{1-4} alkylcarbonyloxy, ~~C_{1-4} alkyloxycarbonyl,~~ C_{1-4} alkylcarbonyl, or formyl; and further being optionally interrupted by -O-, -N(R^c)-, -N(R^c)-C(O)-O-, -O-C(O)-(R^c)-, -N(R^c)-C(O)-N(R^d)-, or -O-C(O)-O-; each of R^c and R^d, independently, being hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkoxy, hydroxylalkyl, hydroxyl, or haloalkyl; provided that when L contains two or more double bonds, the double bonds are not adjacent to each other; that when L contains three double bonds, said hydrocarbon chain is further substituted with ~~C_{1-4} alkyl,~~ C_{2-4} alkenyl, C_{2-4} alkynyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy, hydroxyl, halo, amino, nitro, cyano, C_{3-5} cycloalkyl, 3-5 membered heterocycloalkyl, monocyclic aryl, 5-6 membered heteroaryl, C_{1-4} alkylcarbonyloxy, ~~C_{1-4} alkyloxycarbonyl,~~ C_{1-4} alkylcarbonyl, or formyl; and further provided that when L contains zero double bonds, one double bond, or two conjugated double bonds and A is substituted phenyl or unsubstituted aryl, Y^1 is not a bond or CH_2 and Y^2 is not a bond or CH_2;

or a salt thereof.

2. **(Original)** The compound of claim 1, wherein X^1 is O.

3. **(Original)** The compound of claim 1, wherein X^2 is O.

4. **(Original)** The compound of claim 1, where each of X^1 and X^2 is O.

5. **(Original)** The compound of claim 1, wherein each of Y^1 and Y^2, independently, is -CH_2-, -O-, -N(R^a)-, or a bond.

6. **(Canceled)**

7. **(Currently Amended)** The compound of claim 1, wherein L is an unsaturated C_{4-8} hydrocarbon containing at least one double bond and no triple bond, said unsaturated hydrocarbon chain being optionally substituted with ~~C_{1-2} alkyl~~, C_{1-2} alkoxy, hydroxyl, $-NH_2$, $-NH(C_{1-2}$ alkyl), or $-N(C_{1-2}$ alkyl$)_2$, or $-N(C_{1-2}$ alkyl$)_2$.

8. **(Original)** The compound of claim 7, wherein the double bond is in trans configuration.

9-11. **(Canceled)**

12. **(Original)** The compound of claim 1, wherein A is phenyl, naphthyl, indanyl, or tetrahydronaphthyl.

13. **(Previously Presented)** The compound of claim 1, wherein A is phenyl optionally substituted with 1-3 substituents each of which is independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, alkenyl, hydroxyl, hydroxylalkyl, halo, haloalkyl, and amino.

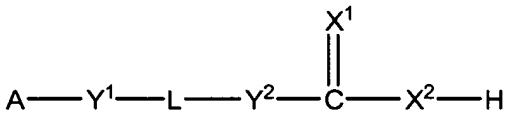
14-15. **(Canceled)**

16. **(Currently Amended)** The compound of claim 13, wherein L is an unsaturated C_{4-8} hydrocarbon chain containing only double bonds in trans configuration, said unsaturated hydrocarbon chain being optionally substituted with ~~C_{1-2} alkyl~~, C_{1-2} alkoxy, hydroxyl, $-NH_2$, $-NH(C_{1-2}$ alkyl), or $-N(C_{1-2}$ alkyl$)_2$.

17. **(Original)** The compound of claim 16, wherein X^1 is O; X^2 is O; and each of Y^1 and Y^2, independently, is $-CH_2-$, -O-, $-N(R^a)-$, or a bond.

18-21. **(Canceled)**

22. **(Currently Amended)** A compound of formula (I):



(I)

wherein

A is a cyclic moiety selected from the group consisting of aryl and heteroaryl; the cyclic moiety being optionally substituted with alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, hydroxylalkyl, or amino;

each of X^1 and X^2, independently, is O or S;

each of Y^1 and Y^2, independently, is $-CH_2-$, -O-, -S-, $-N(R^a)-$, $-N(R^a)-C(O)-O-$, $-O-C(O)-N(R^a)-$, $-N(R^a)-C(O)-N(R^b)-$, -O-C(O)-O-, or a bond; each of R^a and R^b, independently, being hydrogen, alkyl, hydroxylalkyl, or haloalkyl;

L is a straight C_{3-12} hydrocarbon chain optionally containing at least one double bond, at least one triple bond, or at least one double bond and one triple bond; said hydrocarbon chain being optionally substituted with C_{2-4} alkenyl, C_{2-4} alkynyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy, or amino, and further optionally interrupted by -O- or $-N(R^c)-$, where R^c is hydrogen, alkyl, hydroxylalky, or

haloalkyl; provided that when L contains two or more double bonds, the double bonds are not adjacent to each other; that when L contains three double bonds, said hydrocarbon chain is substituted with ~~C_{1-4} alkyl~~, C_{2-4} alkenyl, C_{2-4} alkynyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy, or amino; and further provided that when L contains zero double bonds, one double bond, or two conjugated double bonds and A is C_{1-4} alkyl phenyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy phenyl, or unsubstituted aryl, Y^1 is not a bond or CH_2, and Y^2 is not a bond or CH_2;

or a salt thereof.

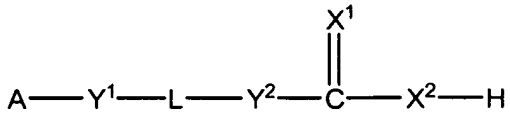
23-24. **(Canceled)**

25. **(Currently Amended)** The compound of claim 22, wherein L is an unsaturated C_{4-8} hydrocarbon chain containing only double bonds in trans configuration, said unsaturated hydrocarbon chain being optionally substituted with ~~C_{1-2} alkyl~~, C_{1-2} alkoxy, hydroxyl, $-NH_2$, $-NH(C_{1-2}$ alkyl), or $-N(C_{1-2}$ alkyl$)_2$.

26. **(Original)** The compound of claim 25, where in X^1 is O; X^2 is O; and each of Y^1 and Y^2, independently, is $-CH_2-$, -O-, $-N(R^a)-$, or a bond.

27-79. **(Canceled)**

80. **(Previously presented)** A pharmaceutical composition, comprising compound of formula (I):



(I)

wherein

A is a cyclic moiety selected from the group consisting of C_{3-14} cycloalkyl, 3-14 membered heterocycloalkyl, C_{4-14} cycloalkenyl, 3-14 membered heterocycloalkenyl, aryl, and heteroaryl; the cyclic moiety being optionally substituted with 1-3 substituents, each of which is independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkoxy, hydroxyl, hydroxylalkyl, halo, haloalkyl, amino, alkylcarbonyloxy, alkyloxycarbonyl, alkylcarbonyl, alkylsulfonylamino, aminosulfonyl, and alkylsulfonyl;

each of X^1 and X^2, independently, is O or S;

each of Y^1 and Y^2, independently, is $-CH_2-$, -O-, -S-, $-N(R^a)-$, $-N(R^a)-C(O)-O-$, $-O-C(O)-N(R^a)-$, $-N(R^a)-C(O)-N(R^b)-$, -O-C(O)-O-, or a bond; each of R^a and R^b independently, being hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkoxy, hydroxylalkyl, hydroxyl, or haloalkyl;

L is a straight C_{3-12} hydrocarbon chain containing at least one double bond, or at least one double bond and one triple bond; said hydrocarbon chain being optionally substituted with C_{2-4} alkenyl, C_{2-4} alkynyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy, hydroxyl, halo, amino, nitro, cyano, C_{3-5} cycloalkyl, 3-5 membered heterocycloalkyl, monocyclic aryl, 5-6 membered heteroaryl, C_{1-4} alkylcarbonyloxy, C_{1-4} alkyloxycarbonyl, C_{1-4} alkylcarbonyl, or formyl; and further being optionally interrupted by -O-, $-N(R^c)-$, $-N(R^c)-C(O)-O-$, $-O-C(O)-N(R^c)-$, $-N(R^c)-C(O)-N(R^d)-$, or -O-C(O)-O-; each of R^c and R^d, independently, being hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkoxy, hydroxylalkyl, hydroxyl, or haloalkyl;

or a salt thereof; and

a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

81. **(Previously Presented)** The pharmaceutical composition of claim 80, wherein X^1 is O.

82. **(Previously Presented)** The pharmaceutical composition of claim 80, wherein X^2 is O.

83. **(Previously Presented)** The pharmaceutical composition of claim 80, where each of X^1 and X^2 is O.

84. **(Previously Presented)** The pharmaceutical composition of claim 80, wherein each of Y^1 and Y^2, independently, is $-CH_2$, -O-, $-N(R^a)-$, or a bond.

85. **(Currently Amended)** The pharmaceutical composition of claim 80, wherein L is an unsaturated C_{4-8} hydrocarbon chain containing at least one double bond and no triple bond, said unsaturated hydrocarbon chain being optionally substituted with ~~C_{1-2} alkyl~~, C_{1-2} alkoxy, hydroxyl, $-NH_2$, $-NH(C_{1-2}$ alkyl), or $-N(C_{1-2}alkyl)_2$, or $-N(C_{1-2}alkyl)_2$.

86. **(Previously Presented)** The pharmaceutical composition of claim 85, wherein the double bond is in trans configuration.

87. **(Previously Presented)** The pharmaceutical composition of claim 80 wherein A is phenyl, naphthyl, indanyl, or tetrahydronaphthyl.

88. **(Previously Presented)** The pharmaceutical composition of claim 80,

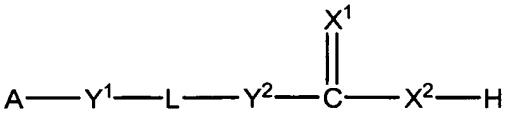
wherein A is phenyl optionally substituted with 1-3 substituents, each of which is independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, alkenyl, hydroxyl, hydroxylalkyl, halo, haloalkyl and amino.

89. **(Currently Amended)** The pharmaceutical composition of claim 80, wherein L is an unsaturated C_{4-8} hydrocarbon chain containing only double bonds in trans configuration, said unsaturated hydrocarbon chain being optionally substituted with ~~C_{1-2} alkyl~~, C_{1-2} alkoxy, hydroxyl, $-NH_2$, $-NH(C_{1-2}$ alkyl), or $-N(C_{1-2}$ alkyl$)_2$.

90. **(Previously Presented)** The pharmaceutical composition of claim 89,

wherein X^1 is O; X^2 is O; and each of Y^1 and Y^2, independently, is $-CH_2-$, -O-, $-N(R^a)-$, or a bond.

91. **(Currently Amended)** A compound of formula (I):



(I)

wherein

wherein

A is a cyclic moiety selected from the group consisting of C_{3-14} cycloalkyl, 3-14 membered heterocycloalkyl, C_{4-14} cycloalkenyl, 3-14 membered heterocycloalkenyl, aryl, and heteroaryl; the cyclic moiety being optionally substituted with alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkoxy, hydroxyl, hydroxylalkyl, halo, haloalkyl, amino, alkylcarbonyloxy, alkyloxycarbonyl, alkylcarbonyl, alkylsulfonylamino, aminosulfonyl, or alkylsulfonyl;

each of X^1 and X^2, independently, is O or S;

Y^1 is $-CH_2-$, -S-, $-N(R^a)-$, $-N(R^a)-C(O)-O-$, $-O-C(O)-N(R^a)-$, $N(R^a)-C(O)-N(R^b)-$, $-O-C(O)-O-$, or a bond; each of R^a and R^b, independently, being hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkoxy, hydroxylalkyl, hydroxyl, or haloalkyl;

Y^2 is $-CH_2-$, -O-, -S-, $-N(R^a)-$, $-N(R^a)-C(O)-O-$, $-O-C(O)-N(R^a)-$, $-N(R^a)-C(O)-N(R^b)-$, $O-C(O)-O-$, or a bond;

L is a straight C_{3-6} hydrocarbon chain containing at least one double bond, at least one triple bond, or at least one double bond and one triple bond; said hydrocarbon chain being substituted with C_{2-4} alkenyl, C_{2-4} alkynyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy, halo, amino, nitro, cyano, C_{3-5} cycloalkyl, 3-5 membered heterocycloalkyl, monocyclic aryl, 5-6 membered heteroaryl, C_{1-4} alkylcarbonyloxy, ~~C_{1-4}-alkyloxycarbonyl,~~ C_{1-4} alkylcarbonyl, or formyl; and further being optionally interrupted by -O-, $-N(R^c)-$, $-N(R^c)-C(O)-O-$, $-O-C(O)-N(R^c)-$, $-N(R^c)-C(O)-N(R^d)-$, or $-O-C(O)-O-$; each of R^c and R^d, independently, being hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkoxy, hydroxylalkyl, hydroxyl, or haloalkyl;

or a salt thereof.

92. **(Previously presented)** The compound of claim 91, wherein X^1 is O.

93. **(Previously presented)** The compound of claim 91, wherein X^2 is O.

94. **(Previously presented)** The compound of claim 91, wherein each of X^1 and X^2 is O.

95. **(Canceled)**

96. **(Previously presented)** The compound of claim 91, wherein L is an unsaturated C_{4-6} hydrocarbon chain containing at least one double bond and no triple bond, said unsaturated hydrocarbon chain being substituted with C_{1-2} alkyl, C_{1-2} alkoxy, hydroxyl, $-NH_2$, $-NH(C_{1-2}$ alkyl), $-N(C_{1-2}$ alkyl$)_2$, $-N(C_{1-2}$ alkyl$)_2$, halo, or monocyclic aryl.

97. **(Previously presented)** The compound of claim 96, wherein said double bond is in trans configuration.

98. **(Canceled)**

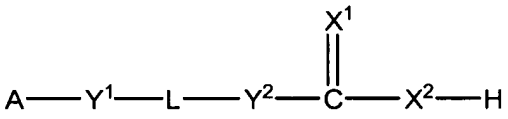
99. **(Previously presented)** The compound of claim 91, wherein A is phenyl optionally substituted with alkyl, alkenyl, hydroxyl, hydroxylalkyl, halo, haloalkyl, or amino.

100. **(Currently Amended)** The compound of claim 91, wherein L is an unsaturated C_{4-6}

hydrocarbon chain containing double bonds only in trans configuration, said unsaturated hydrocarbon chain being substituted with ~~C_{1-2} alkyl~~, C_{1-2} alkoxy, hydroxyl, $-NH_2$, $-NH(C_{1-2}$ alkyl), $-N(C_{1-2}$ alkyl$)_2$, halo, or monocyclic aryl.

101. **(Previously presented)** The compound of claim 100, wherein X^1 is O; X^2 is O; and each of Y^1 and Y^2, independently, is $-CH_2-$, $-N(R^a)-$, or a bond.

102. **(Currently Amended)** A compound of formula (I):



(I)

wherein

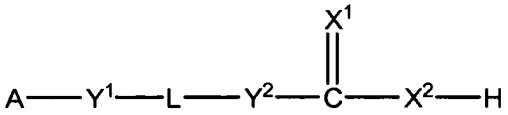
A is a cyclic moiety selected from the group consisting of C_{3-14} cycloalkyl, 3-14 membered heterocycloalkyl, C_{4-14} cycloalkenyl, 3-14 membered heterocycloalkenyl, aryl, a heteroaryl; the cyclic moiety being optionally substituted with alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkoxy, hydroxyl, hydroxylalkyl, halo, haloalkyl, amino, alkylcarbonyloxy, alkyloxycarbonyl, alkylcarbonyl, alkylsulfonylamino, aminosulfonyl, or alkylsulfonyl;

each of X^1 and X^2, independently, is O or S;

each of Y^1 and Y^2, independently, is $-CH_2-$, -O-, -S-, $-N(R^a)-$, $-N(R^a)-C(O)-O-$, $-O-C(O)-N(R^a)-$, $-N(R^a)-C(O)-N(R^b)-$, -O-C(O)-O-, or a bond; each of R^a and R^b, independently being hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkoxy, hydroxylalkyl, hydroxyl, or haloalkyl;

L is a straight C_{3-7} hydrocarbon chain optionally containing at least one double bond, least one triple bond, or at least one double bond and one triple bond; said hydrocarbon chain being optionally substituted with C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{2-4}alkenyl, C_{2-4}alkynyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy, hydroxyl, halo, amino, nitro, cyano, C_{3-5}cycloalkyl, 3-5 membered heterocycloalkyl, monocyclic aryl, 5-6 membered heteroaryl, C_{1-4} alkylcarbonyloxy, ~~C_{1-4}alkyloxycarbonyl,~~ C_{1-4} alkylcarbonyl, or formyl; and further being optionally interrupted by -O-, -N(R^c)-, -N(R^c)-C(O)-O-, -O-C(O)-N(R^c)-, - or -O-C(O)-O-; each of R^c and R^d, independently, being hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkoxy, hydroxylalkyl, hydroxyl, or haloalkyl; provided that when L contains two or more double bonds, the double bonds are not adjacent to each other; that when L contains three double bonds, said hydrocarbon chain is further substituted with C_{2-4}alkenyl, C_{2-4} alkynyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy, hydroxyl, halo, amino, nitro, cyano, C_{3-5}cycloalkyl, 3-5 membered heterocycloalkyl, monocyclic aryl, 5-6 membered heteroaryl, C_{1-4} alkylcarbonyloxy, ~~C_{1-4}alkyloxycarbonyl,~~ C_{1-4}alkylcarbonyl, or formyl; and further provided that when L contains zero double bonds, one double bond, or two conjugated double bonds and A is substituted phenyl or unsubstituted aryl, Y^1 is not a bond or CH_2, and Y^2 is not a bond or CH_2 or a salt thereof.

103. **(New)** A compound of formula (I):



(I)

wherein

A is phenyl, naphthyl, indanyl, or tetrahydronaphthyl;

each of X^1 and X^2, independently, is O or S;

Y^1 is $-CH_2-$, -S-, $-N(R^a)-C(O)-O-$, $-O-C(O)-N(R^a)-$, $N(R^a)-C(O)-N(R^b)-$, $-O-C(O)-O-$, or a bond; each of R^a and R^b, independently, being hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkoxy, hydroxylalkyl, hydroxyl, or haloalkyl;

Y^2 is $-CH_2-$, -O-, -S-, $-N(R^a)-$, $-N(R^a)-C(O)-O-$, $-O-C(O)-N(R^a)-$, $-N(R^a)-C(O)-N(R^b)-$, $O-C(O)-O-$, or a bond;

L is a straight C_{3-6} hydrocarbon chain containing at least one double bond, at least one triple bond, or at least one double bond and one triple bond; said hydrocarbon chain being substituted with C_{2-4} alkenyl, C_{2-4} alkynyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy, halo, amino, nitro, cyano, C_{3-5} cycloalkyl, 3-5 membered heterocycloalkyl, monocyclic aryl, 5-6 membered heteroaryl, C_{1-4} alkylcarbonyloxy, C_{1-4} alkyloxycarbonyl, C_{1-4} alkylcarbonyl, or formyl; and further being optionally interrupted by -O-, $-N(R^c)-$, $-N(R^c)-C(O)-O-$, $-O-C(O)-N(R^c)-$, $-N(R^c)-C(O)-N(R^d)-$, or $-O-C(O)-O-$; each of R^c and R^d, independently, being hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkoxy, hydroxylalkyl, hydroxyl, or haloalkyl; or a salt thereof.

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 7, 8, 12, 13, 16, 17, 22, 25, 26, and 80-102 are pending in the application and claims 1, 7, 16, 22, 25, 85, 89, 91, 100, and 102 have been amended. Claims 95 and 98 have been canceled and new claim 103 has been added. No new matter has been added and no new issues have been raised by the amendments.

The Examiner's remarks in the last Office Action are addressed below. Applicants thank the Examiner for withdrawing previous rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. The Examiner has also indicated that rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 "as set forth in paragraphs 2 and 3 of the previous Office Action in Paper No 8 mailed 19 March 2004 is withdrawn." For the record, Applicants wish to point out that the rejections set forth in paragraphs 2 and 3 of the previous Office Action mailed 19 March 2004 were made under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). Applicants thank the Examiner for withdrawing this rejection.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

The Examiner has objected to claim 98 as it is "dependent upon a rejected base claim." However, it would be "allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims." Specifically, the Examiner has stated that claim 98 is drawn to allowable subject matter as the closest prior art of record (namely Hoorspool et al., and Kvita et al.) does not disclose or render obvious subgenus of compounds claimed in claims 98 and 101. Applicants thank the Examiner for kindly indicating allowability of claim 98. Claim 98 has been rewritten in independent form and is presented as new claim 103.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

Rejection of claims under 35. U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

The Examiner has rejected claims 7, 8, 16, 17, 25, 26, 85, 86, 89, 96, 97, 100 and 101 for "failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regards as the invention."

Applicants have amended claims 7, 16, 25, 85, 89, and 100 to address this rejection. Thus, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 7, 16, 25, 85, 89, and 100 and its dependents under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

Rejection of claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Hoorspool et al.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-5, 7, 8, 12, 13, 16, 17, 22, 25, 26, 80-90 and 102 "under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hoorspool *et al.* ("Hoorspool"). Claims 1, 22, 80 and 102 are independent.

The Examiner contends that Hoorspool discloses "the synthesis of compound 5-phenoxy-2,4-pentadienoic acid" and that "[t]his compound corresponds to compound of formula (I) in which A is unsubstituted phenyl and Y^1 = O, L is substituted with phenyl. Hoorspool further discloses (ibid) that this compound is precipitated from aqueous HCL solution and recrystallized from alcohol solution. The Examiner considers both solutions to be pharmaceutical compositions with the solvents corresponding to pharmaceutically acceptable carriers." See page 3 of the Office Action.

However, Hoorspool does not disclose the synthesis of 5-phenoxy-2,4-pentadienoic acid. Hoorspool discloses the methylester of 5-phenoxy-2,4-pentadienoic acid. See page 1259, lines 26-41. The methylester of 5-phenoxy-2,4-pentadienoic acid is not a compound of formula I in any of claims 1, 22, 80 or 102. Thus, Hoorspool does not anticipate claims 1, 22, 80 or 102, or claims that depend therefrom.

Hoorspool also does not disclose pharmaceutical compositions as recited in claim 80. Rather, the reference describes aqueous solutions which are solvents and not a compound of formula (I) and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Rejection of claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Kvita et al.

Claims 1-5, 7, 8, 12, 13, 16, 17, 22, 26, 91-97, 99, 100 and 102 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by compounds 2 of Kvita et al ("Kvita"). Claims 1, 22, 91, and 102 are independent.

Amended claim 1 recites a compound of formula I in which "L is a straight C_{3-12} hydrocarbon chain optionally containing at least one double bond, at least one triple bond, or at least one double bond and one triple bond; said hydrocarbon chain being optionally substituted with C_{2-4} alkenyl, C_{2-4} alkynyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy, hydroxyl, halo, amino, nitro, cyano, C_{3-5} cycloalkyl, 3-5 membered heterocycloalkyl, monocyclic aryl, 5-6 membered heteroaryl, C_{1-4} alkylcarbonyloxy, C_{1-4} alkylcarbonyl, or formyl."

Amended claim 22 recites a compound of formula I in which "L is a straight C_{3-12} hydrocarbon chain optionally containing at least one double bond, at least one triple bond, or at least one double bond and one triple bond; said hydrocarbon chain being optionally substituted with C_{2-4} alkenyl, C_{2-4} alkynyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy, or amino, and further optionally interrupted by -O- or -N(R^c)-, where R^c is hydrogen, alkyl, hydroxylalky, or haloalkyl."

Amended claim 91 recites a compound of formula I in which "L is a straight C_{3-6} hydrocarbon chain containing at least one double bond, at least one triple bond, or at least one double bond and one triple bond; said hydrocarbon chain being substituted with C_{2-4} alkenyl, C_{2-4} alkynyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy, halo, amino, nitro, cyano, C_{3-5} cycloalkyl, 3-5 membered heterocycloalkyl, monocyclic aryl, 5-6 membered heteroaryl, C_{1-4}alkylcarbonyloxy, C_{1-4} alkylcarbonyl, or formyl."

Amended claim 102 recites a compound of formula I in which "L is a straight C_{3-7} hydrocarbon chain optionally containing at least one double bond, least one triple bond, or at least one double bond and one triple bond; said hydrocarbon chain being optionally substituted with C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{2-4}alkenyl, C_{2-4}alkynyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy, hydroxyl, halo, amino, nitro, cyano, C_{3-5}cycloalkyl, 3-5 membered heterocycloalkyl, monocyclic aryl, 5-6 membered heteroaryl, C_{1-4} alkylcarbonyloxy, C_{1-4} alkylcarbonyl, or formyl;."

Kvita discloses compound 2 which is 4-methoxycarbonyl-5-(4-chlorophenylamino)penta-2,4-dienoic acid. See page 2770, Table 1. 4-methoxycarbonyl-5-(4-chlorophenylamino)penta-2,4-dienoic acid is not within the scope of amended independent claims 1, 22, 91, and 102. The L group of claims 1, 22, 91 and 102 is not optionally substituted by a methoxycarbonyl group. Accordingly, independent claims 1, 22,

91 and 102 and claims that depend therefrom, are not anticipated by Kvita. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

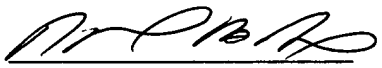
CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the pending rejections. Applicants believe that the claims now pending are in condition for allowance.

Should any fees be required by the present Amendment, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account **19-4293**.

If, for any reason, a telephonic conference with the Applicant would be helpful in expediting prosecution of the instant application, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' Attorney at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,



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